

Message Text

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10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 041623Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3889

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSBF PFOR SS MR UN

SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 SENDS DELEGATES TO MAURITANIA

1. CHIEF MOFA'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
MOHAMED EL MOKTAR BAL CONFIRMED THAT COMMISSION FROM UN
COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD ARRIVE NOUAKCHOTT JUNE 4 FOR FIVE
DAY VISIT. (UN GROUP IN FACT ARRIVED EARLY JUNE 4 AND IS SLATED
TO DEPART FOR DAKAR JUNE 9.) GIRM PLANS TO SEND DELEGATION TO
SPANISH SAHARA-MAURITANIAN BORDER TOWNS OF BIR MOGREIN AND ZOUIRAT
AS WELL AS PORT CITY OF NOUADHIBOU AND SEVENTH REGION CAPITAL
OF ATAR. COMMISSION WILL HAVE APPOINTMENTS IN NOUAKCHOTT
WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, FONMIN MOUKNASS AND INTERIOR
MINISTER SALAAH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION, BAL SAID GIRM HAD
NOT ESTABLISHED REFUGEE CAMPS IN BORDER AREAS FOR BENEFIT
OF COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE "EASY TO DO," HE
SAID, "THE HISTORY OF THE REGION IS ONE OF CONTINUAL MIGRATION
OF NOMADS ACROSS THE SAHARA-MAURITANIAN BORDER." BAL
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INDICATED PROOF OF THIS CONTINUAL FLOW OF PEOPLE BETWEEN

TWO TERRITORIES IS ESSENTIAL FOR MAKING MAURITANIAN CLAIMS
TO SPANISH SAHARA AND THIS FACT WILL BE DEMONSTRATED TO UN
DELEGATION.

3. COMMENT: IN DEVELOPMENT PYALLELING GROWTH IN MOROCCO
OF IMAGE OF ALGERIA AS KING HASSAN'S "BETE NOIRE", IT IS
CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION WITH BAL AND OTHER YOUNGER MAURITANIANS
THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF AND INCREASINGLY
WORRIED ABOUT MOROCCO, AS POLITICALLY AWARE IN YOUNGER
GENERATION COME TO REALIZE THAT "BROTHERLY" MOROCCO IS
ONLY REAL COMPETITOR FOR COVETED TERRITORY OF SPANISH SAHARA.
WHILE MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA MAY BE IN FULL AGREEMENT ON
NEED FOR SPANISH TO LEAVE AFRICA, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR
THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED--DESPITE PROTESTATIONS TO
CONTRARY IN BOTH RABAT AND NOUAKCHOTT-ON DETAILED DECOLONIAL-
IZATION AND PARTITION OF SAHARA. ASSERTIONS OF TOTAL
AGREEMENT ARE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT MRLO ACCEPT GIVEN GIRM
FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS' DECLARATION THAT MAURITANIA
CLEARLY EXTENDS NORTHWARD "AT LEAST AS FAR AS EL AAIUN".
HANDYSIDE

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